

Sustainability Committee
Minutes of Meeting
February 11, 2015

Present: Lynn Stoddard, Shawn Santesiere, Kristin Schwab, Susannah Everett, George & Joyce Rawitcher (guests), Linda Painter (staff), Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 5:39 by Stoddard.

Approval of the January 14, 2015 meeting minutes were deferred until there is a meeting quorum.

Members provided their comments on the Mansfield Tomorrow plan as follows:

General comments –

1. Stronger emphasis on partnering with groups, particularly schools and UConn, to achieve the Town's goals
2. Build in flexibility to the permitting parameters.

Chapter 2, Natural Systems

1. Goal 2.1 conserve natural resources, Strategy A - Add demonstration projects on town properties and include the number of demonstration projects as a measure
2. Pepper the idea of land stewardship throughout the plan, specifically education that emphasizes more sustainable human uses of resources such as maple sugaring, forest gardening, etc..
3. Is prescribed burns pertinent to Mansfield?
4. Include urban forests as a natural system
5. Goal 2.4 climate action, Strategy A #3 – Could this statement of carbon neutrality be made stronger and changed to greenhouse gas neutrality (9.3 also)? Include additional measures under climate action plan.
6. Goal 2.5 hazard mitigation plan - add collaboration with UConn as part of the strategy

Chapter 5, Community Life – could the plan address the inefficiencies of the school buildings?

Chapter 8, Future Land Use and Community Design

1. Goal 8.1, rural character in mixed-use area – add the number of businesses in mixed use areas as a measure
2. Add an action that specifically calls for pursuing Town/University partnerships in guiding the development of critical juncture areas such as South Campus to Moss Sanctuary, Four Corners, Mansfield Depot, King Hill Road

Chapter 9, Infrastructure, Goal 9.1, integrated transportation system –

1. add funding for sharrows in the greater Storrs area
2. Town should coordinate closely with UConn and regional transit system on high capacity events

Chapter 10, Future Planning and Implementation - add an action to develop effective models for working collaboratively with the University on implementing both the Mansfield Vision Plan and UConn Master Plan. Use the Downtown Partnership was one existing model that has worked well.

Since there was not a quorum, another meeting will be scheduled for February 18 at 5:30 pm. At that meeting, comments will be compiled for submission to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Stoddard, Schwab, Everett and Santesiere said they will be available to attend. Walton will call other members to find out their availability.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Walton